

Purpose of the Survey

Decatur County is updating its 2007 Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is a policy document that describes the current state of the County and future vision for how the County should develop over a twenty year period. The Comprehensive Plan will help guide the County and its encompassed jurisdictions as they continue to plan for and review both public and private developments within Decatur County. The Comprehensive Plan should reflect the values and opinions of the County's residents.

After the public meetings in October 2015, the Decatur County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is in the process of crafting policy for the updated comprehensive plan. The steering committee would like residents and business owners in Decatur County to complete this survey in order to help shape the policy of the County for the next twenty years.

As residents and business owners of the County, we welcome your opinions on how Decatur County should be developed in the future. The answers to these questions are very important in shaping the future development agenda in Decatur County.

We ask that you please take a few moments to complete the survey to the best of your ability. It should not take more than 20 minutes to complete the survey.

Each person may only submit the survey once and your responses will be kept confidential.

Please submit all survey responses by January 22, 2016.

Thank you in advance for your help in shaping the future of Decatur County!

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. How long have you been a resident or business owner in Decatur County?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 to 5 years
- ☐ 6 to 10 years
- ☐ 11 or more years

2. Where do you currently live in Decatur County (please pick only 1 choice)?

- ☐ Adams Township
- ☐ Clinton Township
- ☐ Fugit Township
- ☐ Clay Township
- ☐ Washington Township
- ☐ Salt Creek Township
- ☐ Jackson Township
- ☐ Sand Creek Township
- ☐ Marion Township
- ☐ Clarksburg
- ☐ Greensburg
- ☐ Lake Santee
- ☐ Milford
- ☐ Millhousen
- ☐ New Point
- ☐ St. Paul
- ☐ Westport

3. What is your age group?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 to 30
- ☐ 31 to 45
- ☐ 46 to 64
- ☐ 65 and older

QUALITY OF LIFE

4. Why did you choose to live in Decatur County? Please Rate your top 3 Choices from 1 to 3, with 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest. Each number can only be used once.

	1	2	3
Lived here all my life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Close to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small Town/Rural Atmosphere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing Affordability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family and Friends Nearby	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Convenience of Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scenic Beauty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agricultural/Farming Aspects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please Specify Below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other

5. In your opinion should Decatur County create or update policies for the following issues? (Please rate each answer)

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Preservation of farmland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comment	<input type="text"/>		
Confined Feeding Operations			

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Comment

Commercial/Industrial Development Guidelines

☐☐☐

Comment

Stricter enforcement of property maintenance standards

☐☐☐

Comment

Land subdivision regulations

☐☐☐

Comment

Areas set aside for renewable energy (wind, solar, etc.)

☐☐☐

Comment

Natural gas extraction or exploration standards

☐☐☐

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Comment

Light pollution standards

☐☐☐

Comment

Other (Please Specify Below)

☐☐☐

Comment

6. What quality of life aspects does Decatur County not offer that you would like to see (i.e. trails, parks, preservation of open space, etc.)

LAND USE

7. Of the following Land Use issues, please Rate your top 3 Choices of greatest importance from 1 to 3, with 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest. Each number can only be used once.

	1	2	3
Preservation of farmland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping all buildings off of prime farmland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowing more than 1 house on a parcel instead of only 1 house per parcel (current regulation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowing less than 5 lot splits without going through the subdivision process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focusing development in areas outside of existing communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focusing development in and next too existing communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrating commercial and residential uses instead of separating them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If new development were to occur in Decatur County, which type of development would you like to see? Please rank from 1 to 6 with 1 being the highest and 6 being the lowest. Each number can only be used once.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Residential: Individual Single Family Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential: Apartments, Condominiums, Townhouses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential: Subdivisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commercial: Offices and Retail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Industrial & Warehouse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No more development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please Specify Below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other

9. Which statement(s) do you prefer in regards to how Decatur County should plan for future residential development patterns?

- ☐ Residential development should be focused in and around existing towns (Greensburg, Lake Santee, Millhousen, etc.)
- ☐ Residential development, whether individual lots or subdivisions should be allowed anywhere in the County as long as appropriate municipal or well/septic can be obtained.
- ☐ Cluster individual parcels or subdivisions together in the unincorporated areas instead of letting development spread out all over the County.

10. Which statement would you prefer?

- ☐ The County should require smaller lots for rural residential (1 1/2 acres to protect agricultural viability and allow for well/septic requirements). This is the current regulation.
- ☐ The County should require medium lots for rural residential (2 1/2 acres to protect agricultural viability, allow for well/septic requirements, protect the feeling of open space and a rural character).
- ☐ The County should require larger lots for rural residential (5+ acres in order to protect agricultural viability, allow for well/septic requirements, protect the feeling of open space and a rural character).

AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES

11. Please provide your opinion on the following statement:

I think the County should...

Preserve ALL Farmland

☐

Preserve ONLY Prime
Farmland

☐

DO NOT Preserve
Farmland

☐

12. Please provide your opinion on the following statement:

I think the County should...

Use STATE Confined
Feeding Operation
Regulations

☐

Use STATE and SOME
LOCAL Confined
Feeding Operation
Regulations

☐

DO NOT allow any more
Confined Feeding
Operations

☐

TRANSPORTATION

13. What do you think should be the highest priority for Decatur County in regards to infrastructure?
Please rate your top 2 choices, with 1 being the highest.

	1	2
Maintaining and improving existing roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build new roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining and improving existing sidewalks and bikeways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build new sidewalks and bikeways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create wider shoulders along roads to accommodate for farm equipment, bikes, pedestrians, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Please rate the following based on their level of importance.

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Very Important	Not Important at All
Routine maintenance of roads/bridges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paving of gravel roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety improvements to roads/bridges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Construction of new roadways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transportation within the County	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transportation to other counties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved safety at railroad crossings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Please name up to 3 roads that need to be paved.

Choice 1

Choice 2

Choice 3

16. Please name up to 3 roads or bridges that need maintenance and what type of maintenance is needed (re-pave, shoulder issues, crumbling pavement, etc.).

Choice 1

Choice 2

Choice 3

17. Please name up to 3 roads or bridges that need safety improvements.

Choice 1

Choice 2

Choice 3

18. Where should new roads be created? Please name starting and ending point. (List no more than 3).

Name of Road, Starting
and Ending Point

Name of Road, Starting
and Ending Point

Name of Road, Starting
and Ending Point

19. Are there other types of infrastructure that needs to be addressed, improved, etc. If so please provide a detailed description below.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

20. Please provide any additional comments you would like the Steering Committee to know.

FUTURE COMMUNICATION ABOUT PROCESS

21. Would you like information/updates about the Decatur County Comprehensive Plan?

☐

22. If so, please provide contact info:

Name

Email Address

This is the end of the survey. Thank you for your time.